



# THE ROUNDUP

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To contact the board email [info@rvha.us](mailto:info@rvha.us)

Mission Statement: The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association is dedicated to protecting all horse properties, large and small facilities alike, and preserving horse privileges along with our rural lifestyle. The Association is committed to uniting our horse community in working toward these goals. Membership is open to all, horse owners and non-horse owners alike, who support our purpose. We are not a Homeowners Association; we do not restrict, regulate or police.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

'Tis the season of getting up before dawn to feed the animals, clean pens and sneak in a desert ride before the temps of hell are upon us by mid-morning. At this time of year, we're told it is especially important to stay hydrated. I know I have to force myself to drink more water,



or fluids that are mostly water, during these scorching dry temperatures. When we don't get enough fluid in our tissues, our cells start to draw it from our bloodstream, blood thickens putting a strain on our heart, and we can feel weak, light-headed or groggy. Well, I can't be super woman if this happens!

I try my best to drink several large glasses of water every day, and often try to drink 2 full glasses at a time ?? or on these hot summer days before I head out for my outdoor activities. I splash sugarless fruit juices in my water or sparkling water to help encourage more fluid intake. I really enjoy sparkling water flavored with a squirt of lemon or lime.

The liquid in fruits and vegetables can also help provide about 20% of our daily water requirement, if we eat enough. Melons, such as cantaloupe, honeydew, and watermelon, and even oranges, grapefruit, grapes, and apples, are especially helpful for added hydration. Salads are full of additional water also. We just can't go wrong eating more of any of these in the summer. And isn't our doctor telling us we need to eat more fiber anyway?

Our much loved critters need more fluid too. I will sometimes soak a bit of hay in water to help hydrate the gut of my horse and donkey a couple of hours before heading out for a ride. Homemade popsicles are also on hand for a cool treat in the afternoons.

I freeze water with added chunks of pple, carrots or watermelon in a plastic container, even adding some Gatorade if I have some on hand. I empty the container in their grain buckets and enjoy the sounds of their slurping up the cool treat.

I'll add water to the daily kibble for my dogs and sometimes give them diluted low sodium broth to encourage more fluid intake. They really enjoy frozen green beans and "pupsicles" for their cool summer treats. I cut up some chicken, green beans and carrots, place in ice cube trays, then add low sodium broth and freeze. You can find oodles of recipes on the internet for an assortment of frozen yumminess for all your furry friends.

I refuse to buy bottled water for many reasons so I use a tall, lightweight double-walled stainless steel thermos type bottle to help keep my water cold while out riding or hiking. These are so inexpensive and readily available these days. While out on patrol, I'll bring a few extra along in case I meet up with a Preserve user who has run out to give them a refill. Folks often underestimate what they'll need while out in our desert. I also have a small collapsible bowl for my dogs, and offer them a drink a few times, even though we only go out super early in the day. \*

In addition to staying hydrated, I do hope you enjoy the summer. The RVHA Board takes off July and August but our Facebook page and emails will continue to be your connection. Perhaps you can drive up north to cool off, head to the beaches or lounge by a pool at home. Whatever you do, have fun and be safe.

\*Last year, The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board past a ban stating that dogs are not allowed on mountain hiking trails when the temperature is over 100 degrees. Failure to comply could result in a Class One Misdemeanor, that could also include a fine of up to \$2,500 and six months in jail.

*Terry Stecyk*

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## **RVHA – AREA AWARENESS UPDATE WE’RE KEEPING AN EYE ON IT FOR YOU!**

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by Mike Oster

### **ROUNDABOUTS!**

A good friend of mine had a funny saying. With no provocation, she would remark, “I think I’ll slip into something comfortable. Like a coma.” It always cracked me up.

So, unless you’ve been in a coma, we assume you have been reading and thinking about the two proposed roundabouts on Rio Verde Drive. These are to be located at 118th and 122nd Streets.

RVHA is very engaged in investigating this issue for you.

We have had meetings with the developer’s representatives, contacted City and County officials to make sure our voice is heard, and sent you eblast updates on May 27th, June 15th and June 19th. Thanks to your phone calls and insightful letters, our concerns are being considered.

The parties to this project are the City of Scottsdale and Scottsdale National Golf Club. To the municipal and developer partners, we are non-stakeholders with opinions. But to the County, we are citizens with concerns about how we may be negatively impacted by this impedance of traffic on a public roadway.

Our thanks to Supervisor Steve Chucuri for appointing an Ombudsman to represent us in an investigation of this issue.

#### Ombudsman

Bill Leal

Maricopa County

2801 W Durango Street

Phoenix, AZ 85009

(o) 602.506.4723

[wjl@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:wjl@mail.maricopa.gov)

Bill has a strong technical background and is very familiar with effective methodologies to resolve issues involving multiple agencies. He has many other duties with the County, so we want to be appreciative of his participation and respectful of his time.

If you have engaged with any of the parties to this project, you may be experiencing some frustration. But remember that ‘there is strength in numbers’ and that we will continue to provide you updates and avenues for expression of your concerns.

## SHARE THE TRAILS CONFERENCE



by Jean Anderson

The Arizona Horse Council 501C3 Foundation is hosting a Share the Trails Conference. The conference, for all trail users, will be held in Phoenix, AZ, November 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>.

The conference will be held at the Point Tapatio Resort. I might add here, that Dr. Temple Grandin is our key-note speaker at a luncheon on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Mary Temple Grandin is an American Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University, consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior, and autism spokesperson. She is one of the first individuals on the autism spectrum to publicly share insights from her personal experience of autism. A portion of the proceeds of the luncheon will go to her Autism Foundation.

If you know of anyone who would like to sponsor or become an attendee, go to the website [sharingthetrails.com](http://sharingthetrails.com).

where registration is available. The 501C3 has also been working on “trail users” brochures to be put out in state, county and city parks, for all users to read. These are very important brochures because they inform new trail users about rules and regulations (and some helpful hints) about using the trails, and remind others who have been trail users for years.

Stay cool, and Happy Trails,

Jean



## YOUR RURAL METRO STATION GETS UPGRADES

by John Kraetz, Rural Metro Fire Chief

We would like to announce Rural Metro's recent upgrades to our service delivery for the Rio Verde Foothills area. We recently added a fire rescue ambulance now stationed and staffed 24/7 at the fire station. This unit is staffed with a Paramedic/Firefighter and an EMT/Firefighter. Ambulance response times should be dramatically shortened to medical calls in the area. With the addition of this extra manpower, we are able to handle bad accidents, heart attacks, fires, etc. much more efficiently.

We have also upgraded our brush truck to a larger style that holds much more water and has a more robust compliment of equipment. This unit will be a great asset in the case of wildland fires.

The last upgrade is a new fire engine for the community. The new truck holds 1000 gallons of water, which of course is important in an area with few fire hydrants. This unit will be placed in service before June 1st Has it been placed in service – still accurate?

Also, just so the community knows, we have moved into the main house on the property so access to the fire station is through the main entrance.

### Summer Fire Safety Reminder

As we approach the Fourth of July, we would like to remind everyone that we live in the desert surrounded by dry brush and extremely flammable tinder with limited fire service support.

Please, be mindful of the use of fireworks and the hazards that they can cause. Neighborhood watches will be in full effect. The sheriff and fire department have been called in advance to be on the alert for offenders. It's a Class One misdemeanor and carries a \$1000 fine.

The use of 'consumer fireworks' is regulated in the State of Arizona in part by House Bill 2246. There is a difference between consumer fireworks and display fireworks. Consumer fireworks include ground and hand-held sparklers, cylindrical fountains, cone fountains, Illuminating torches, wheels and ground spinners, flitter sparklers, toy smoke devices, wire sparklers or dipped sticks, multiple tube fireworks devices, and pyrotechnic articles. Consumer fireworks DO NOT include anything that is designed or intended to rise into the air and explode, detonate, or fly above the ground, including items commonly known as firecrackers, aerial spinners, mine devices, aerial shell kits, bottle rockets, sky rockets, missile-type rockets, helicopters, torpedoes, roman candles, and jumping jacks.



What this means is that ANYTHING that shoots into the air is allowed to be used only by a

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL. IF YOU ARE NOT LICENSED, IT IS ILLEGAL TO SHOOT OFF ANY FIREWORKS THAT RISE INTO THE AIR. With all the vegetation surrounding properties here in the Rio Verde Foothills, the illegal use of bottle rockets or any airborne devices landing in an area containing dried-out brush could be disastrous, resulting in a huge wildfire that could easily destroy homes, livestock, and most importantly, the beautiful desert in which we live.

The State and County can and will cite violators of these regulations, and you can and will be held liable for any damages suffered due to the illegal use of the above fireworks. Additionally, Maricopa County can impose a fireworks ban if conditions warrant such.

Have fun, and please use only permissible consumer fireworks in a safe manner. Monitor your children especially when using sparklers. Sparklers burn at an incredibly high heat and can catch hair and clothing on fire easily.

We would add that this year in particular, we will have an extreme brush fire danger. That means that any spark at all can create a devastating fire. Some of the causes of brush fires in areas like the Rio Foothills are welding, like pipe rails for corrals. The person welding usually has a protective mask on and doesn't notice a fire until it's too late. If you need to do some welding, have a hose nearby, and if possible post an observer to 'watch over your shoulder'. Dragging chains to smooth arenas or to remove vegetation has also caused fires in the past. Again, have a hose nearby if possible.

The biggest thing home owners can do to help protect their property and the community at large is to clear brush from your property. Creating a 30 foot defensible space around any structures and the clearing of small weeds clearing along property lines can go a long way towards helping the fire department in keeping a brush fire contained to a small area. We offer a property survey to our subscribers to help determine steps homeowners can take to protect their property. If interested, please call Luther Moorhead at Rural Metro Fire department to schedule 480-606-3398.

### CALL LOG

February: 9 medical calls and 2 service calls (snakes and fire alarms)

March: 7 medical calls and 5 service calls

April: 15 medical calls and 4 service calls

I know it doesn't seem like a lot of calls, but for those folks requiring medical service, it's the most important call of the month for both them and us!

Also, with the new ambulance, they are getting transported to the hospital much faster.

Call breakdown by incident type

## CALL BREAKDOWN BY INCIDENT

Incident Type	2013	2014	2015	2016
2 & 1 EMS		1	1	
3 & 1 Haz Mat 1		1		
Brush Fire	1		1	1
Brush Fire w/exposure				
Code 3 Special Duty		4	2	7
EMS Life Threat	23	55	81	90
EMS NonLife Threat	1	7	2	10
EMS Urgent	3	9	9	5
Grade	8	10	12	13
Info/Alarm Test				1
Mountain Rescue		1		2
Mutual Aid			1	4
Service call (Code 2)	4	34	21	48
Service call (Code 3)		2		2
Special Duty (Code 2)	1	1	1	2
Stand by			2	
Still (Code 3)	3	16	16	13
Structure Fire Comm.			1	
Structure Fire Res.	1	2	2	10
Traffic accident	2	4	12	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>224</b>

There is a demonstrated increase in calls for service as each year progresses. Once the data is complete for 2017, it will show that again, the calls for service have increased. As the population of the area grows due to new home construction, the trend is expected to continue.



*A LITTLE LATE*

# NATIONAL MOUNTED ARCHERY COMPETITION

by Joey Ogburn

The 1st Ground Zero Michigan National Mounted Archery Competition on May 25<sup>th</sup> through May 27<sup>th</sup>, was deemed a great success. There were 16 competitors ranging in categories from walk/trot to novice and advanced open. The MAA's youth program was debut during this competition. Each day provided a different course. On Friday morning the Hungarian was presented, and in the afternoon was the Korean 2-3. On Saturday morning was the Korean Single Shot, the Double Shot and the Triple Shot. The exciting Blazing Back Shot was held in the afternoon. And, finally, Sunday morning the 2-3-3 was held, and in the afternoon the Five Demons.



## Competition categories descriptions:

Korean archery competition consists of five disciplines. The single shot is to the side with one target using concentric rings for point values. Each contestant gets two passes.



The double shot is similar, but features one target in the first 30 meters and a second target in the last 30 meters. The triple shot is a modification of the serial shot (usually five targets).



The Hungarian style is to shoot as many arrows as possible in a prescribed distance with targets changing range as the horse move forward. It is considered the most difficult of the standardized styles.

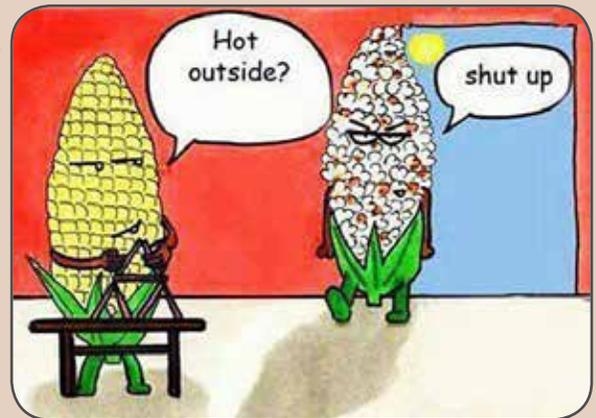
The Five Demons consists of five targets at varying ranges in a 90 meter course. I couldn't find any other descriptions of the Blazing Back Shot or Korean 2-3 mentioned in this article).

Our very own Rio Verde Foothills-based Desert Warriors of the Southwest Mounted Archery Chapter had three of its members compete in Michigan. Diana Troyk, a registered Mounted Archery of the Americas Instructor, brought home a 3rd in the Hungarian class. However, her true joy was watching two of her students win big in the competition. Greg Ogburn won 1st overall and Joey Ogburn won 2nd overall.

The Desert Warriors of the Southwest will be hosting a national competition sanctioned by the Mounted Archery of the Americas in Rio Verde Foothills on November 9th through the 11th. Be sure to come out and enjoy this exciting sport as it continues to grow here in the United States.

### YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM ARIZONA WHEN . . .

1. You can say "Hohokam" and no one thinks you're making it up
2. You no longer associate rivers or bridges with water.
3. You know that a "swamp cooler" is not a happy hour drink.
4. You can contemplate a high temperature of 120 degrees as "not all that bad, after all it's a dry heat."
5. You know that you can make sun tea outside faster than instant tea in your microwave.
6. You have to run your air conditioner in the middle of winter so that you can use your fireplace.
7. The water coming from the cold tap is hotter than from the hot tap.
8. You can correctly pronounce the following words: Saguaro, Tempe, Gila Bend, Oaxaca, Canyon de Chelly, Mogollon Rim, Cholla, Tlaquepacque, and Ajo.
9. It's noon on a weekday in July, kids are on summer vacation, and not one single person is moving on the streets.
10. Hot air balloons can't fly because the air outside is hotter than the air inside.
11. You buy salsa by the gallon.
12. Your Christmas decorations include a half-yard of sand and 100 paper bags.
13. You think someone driving while wearing oven mitts is clever.



14. Most of the restaurants in your town have the first name El or Los.
15. You think six tons of crushed rock makes a beautiful yard.
16. You can say 115 degrees without fainting.
17. Vehicles with open windows have the right-of-way in the summer.
18. People break out coats when the temperature drops below 70.
19. You discover, in July, it only takes two fingers to drive your car.
20. The pool can be warmer than you are.
21. You realize Valley Fever isn't a disco dance.
22. People with black cars or have black upholstery in their car are automatically assumed to be from out-of-state or nuts.
23. You know better than to get into a car/truck with leather seats if you're wearing shorts.
24. Announcements for Fourth of July events always end with "in case of monsoon..."
25. You have to explain to out-of-staters why there is no daylight savings time
26. You can say "haboob" without giggling.

## KUDOS TO THERESA THRAEN!

While at the Verde River enjoying some refreshing swim-time with her amazing rescue Border Collies, RVHA member Theresa Thraen picked up trash and put out a campfire someone had left. KUDOS to Theresa, and her friend Trixie, for going that extra mile to help keep this recreational area free of trash.

G R E A T  
J O B



## RVHA ANNUAL MEETING

The April weather was typical Arizona sunshine and perfect spring temperatures as several RVHA members headed out for a trail ride from Lorill Equestrian Center/AZ Cowboy College through the Tonto National Forest. After the hour and half ride, a luncheon and our annual meeting with election results followed.

Since we had a limited amount of submissions of candidacy forms to join the RVHA Board of Directors (BOD), sending ballots out to members seemed pointless as there were still vacant seats on the Board. Rather than waste your time, we opted out of sending ballots through Election Buddy this year.

During the meeting we asked for nominations for officer positions and members present approved the selections. Remaining as president is Terry Holmes-Stecyk, vice-president is Carmela Lizzo, secretary is Jenny Powers and treasurer is Mo Wachman. Mo will be assisted by Judy Riley, our former treasurer, who has agreed to maintain the books and produce reports with

Mo's direction. Lori Bridwell and Kim Edwards remain as directors, and we welcome Ann Meyers as our newest member to the Board of Directors.

Our P&L for the year was presented and approved. It is now available on our website as well as minutes from our annual meeting. <http://rvha-az.com/archive.htm>

RVHA membership for 2018 is currently at 450 members, 58 are new to RVHA this year, and we have 42 lifetime members.

Many thanks to all our hard-working RVHA committee members and volunteers who assist the BOD throughout the year. And many thanks to YOU, our RVHA membership, for making the Rio Verde Foothills the best community to call home.



DISCLAIMER: RVHA invited a Water Facts Committee spokesperson to come speak to the RVHA Board at the June meeting but they respectfully declined. We further offered to include any article the Water Facts Committee would like to share with the RVHA membership and this request was also declined. We were told they'd prefer people go to their private and closed Facebook page for any information they wish to be shared with the community.

RVHA is not endorsing either approach in securing a long-term water supply for hauled water users until more facts are collected and studied. RVHA will continue to share information with our members as received. We feel this is a community decision and one we hope will result in a peaceful and positive outcome for all.

## **RIO VERDE FOOTHILLS WATER TASK FORCE TO SECURE A LONG-TERM SOURCE OF WATER**



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by Patrick Ross

The Rio Verde Foothills Water Task Force - what it is about, how it is operating, where we are now, and most importantly where we are going. Our goal is to work towards securing a long term secure source of water for RVF. This means a term of 10 years or more, with an obligation to provide.

Most of us on hauled water rely on two awesome water haulers - Damon Bruns and John Hornewer. For the RVF, prior to February 2018, both haulers mainly purchased water from the City of Scottsdale using an annual permit. In February 2018, Global Water entered into a contract for 1 year with John Hornewer. RVF homes reliant on hauled water used an average of about 2,839,613 gallons per month (about 9 acre feet) in 2017. An acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons. This average usage includes those who hauled their own water from CoS. Economically and based on discussions with the two water haulers, almost all who use hauled water prior to February 2018 obtained that water from CoS. There may be more not included or from other sources, so for purposes of discussions let's just use 10 acre feet (3,258,510 gallons) a month, or 120 acre feet a year. GW has indicated they are supplying approximately 1 million gallons per month to Rio Verde Water, as of February 2018 for delivery to the Foothills.

We met with the CoS several months ago to discuss if Scottsdale is willing to be a guaranteed water source for the RVF. Unfortunately, this is not an option. In our presentation to the community on May 10, 2018, a representative from the CoS reiterated to the community that the City is under no obligation to provide water to the Foothills, and that their residents take first priority. Further, neither is the County or the State responsible to provide water. The CoS indicated that they do NOT have plans to cut us off anytime soon, but if they were to enter into a Stage 2 drought, changes can be expected. What exactly are those changes? We don't know because the CoS is currently drafting (expected to be completed soon) an updated drought management plan that will include what steps they will take during each of the four phases of drought planning with regards to providing water from the fill station located at Pima and Jomax (RVF main source).

The Task Force has also met with Rio Verde Utilities. They assured us that their first obligation was to the residents of Rio Verde, not Rio Verde Foothills, and they would NOT be able to provide, sell, trade or supply us with any water.

Additionally, The Task Force met with GW President, Ron Fleming; Vice President, Jon Corwin; Vice President, Joanne Ellsworth; and Director of Water Resources, Jake Lenderking. The results of that meeting were briefly shared on May 10th by Annie Hodgkins. In summary, they need to study whether there is a long term secured way they can assist and what that would look like. We set another meeting for mid-September 2018 to discuss any options that may be feasible. We are continuing to look for other viable options.

The bottom line is that there is no secure, long term water source for RVF.

-- Does that mean we are in a crisis? Absolutely not. It means our water is based on the goodwill of the CoS that presently have no intention of shutting off the flow of water but have not provided clear indications of what will happen; reduction, remove commercial haulers, cut off, if a Phase 2 drought situation occurs.

-- How likely is Phase 2? That is discussed below.

-- Does that mean we can rest assured we will always have water? No

-- Does GW change things? Sort of. The contract is for 1 year and has many legal outs, among them impact on the aquifer. We simply don't know yet.

We have not found a source for water yet that can fulfill all of the Foothill's water needs. Once we determine what that source(s) might be, we will then be able to move forward in sharing information as to what the entity or contract looks like that will need to be developed.

The discussion of entities is to help everyone understand what may be needed to secure water. We knew this part was going to take time and understanding. We hoped once a source or sources were identified, by already having a background of the various entities, the community would be able to move forward more efficiently to secure the water. There are four main entity "types" at this point (which do have subsets).

First, is a Domestic Water Improvement District (DWID). A DWID) is a County-initiated local district. In most cases the County Board of Supervisors acts as the initial board of directors for the district with elections to be held by local residents. The board would set by-laws, rates, etc. See Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) Title 48, Chapter 6, County Improvement Districts, Article 1 § 48-901 and Article 4 § 48-1011.

Second, is a private utility which is regulated by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). The ACC would determine the territory the water provider would serve by granting a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CC&N). The ACC would also set water rates and other fees. However, any legal form (C Corp, LLC, S Corp, Co-Op all seem viable). This is the type of entity we are talking about when we say a Co-Op. We have defined this as a Co-Op because any entity that the WTF may set up should be community based and not for profit in our opinion.

Third, is a private company that is not a utility. The ACC may determine that the provider is Not for Public Service (must be a Co-Op or not for profit company) and grant it a defined territory it

serves. We have not focused on this for many reasons. First, it would require a prohibition against further sub-division evidenced by deed restrictions or other enforceable regulations of the area it serves; second, membership is restricted to a fixed number of customers actual or potential; and, third, the ACC would have to approve the entity which requires evidence the private company owns the utility assets, including wells and pumps sufficient to serve the land owners. We do not believe the facts avail this option to RVF, but have NO OBJECTION to someone pursuing information on this and providing it. Also, as to whether it must be a not for profit type company is not confirmed.

And the fourth entity type is to do nothing. This is not a viable option in our opinion because reacting under a crisis situation is never ideal. The CoS relies on Central Arizona Project (CAP) water and Salt River Project (SRP) water as their main water source. All indications are CAP is going to have reductions along with SRP. With that, water is getting harder to secure, water is going up in price, and, if we secure water now and use Scottsdale for processing, we can build up versus having to secure all at once. This was another area of confusion. Scottsdale will always provide us the water that we provide them. However, if we purchase 150 acre feet per year and have it "wheeled" into Scottsdale, and RVF only uses 100 acre feet that year, we don't get a credit in the next year of 50 acre feet, we will lose it.

As we have stated, there is no crisis. With no crisis, this can be done with deliberate action, not haste.

Each of the entities described above have pros and cons. When looking to each option, remember just because something can be done, does not mean it will. We know Scottsdale will not provide a guarantee. So, if the goal is creating an entity to purchase water to provide to Scottsdale, and since Scottsdale made it clear on May 10th that they are planning on the fill station at Pima and Jomax to be operational even with the expected growth in North Scottsdale, plus planning for the traffic generated by the use of the fill station, then the need for infrastructure is a moot point.

Often times these entities are created to do far more than is needed in RVF, for example, building a community well. Currently, there is insufficient data if the aquifer would support the increased water usage. In 2003 it was estimated that RVF wells used 570 acre feet per year. By 2020, based on that estimate from 2005, places it at 2100 acre feet per year. Now, add the current homes reliant on hauled water (another 120 acre feet a year at current usage) and all the new homes being built by wildcat developers and the Vista Verde development, which were not included. Is it prudent to look to a community well at this point without knowing the aquifer? That's still open for discussion, but it doesn't appear likely. In the future, if complete studies have been done to fully understand the aquifer, plus anticipate growth, maybe. But currently? Doubtful. No well, no infrastructure.

Finally, GW's response will have a key role in what may or may not be needed. If GW responds that they can enter into a long term agreement at sufficient quantities that will not negatively impact that aquifer for other RVF residents, or affect current well owners, does that change the calculus? You bet, but studies will need to be done to determine those factors. I look forward to learning what they can do.

We are still gathering facts. What will help clarify our situation is to learn exactly what the

Scottsdale Drought Management Plan will be and what GW is willing and able to do long term. Over the summer, the Task Force will continue to meet with other possible sources of water that can “wheel” into Scottsdale or economically directly supply water.

At the end of summer, probably early fall, we hope to have a good handle on sources. When looking to whether a source is a viable option, it will depend on several factors. The main factor is the logistics. Why seek a long-term source that isn't logistically capable of being reasonable (remember the water trucks must go and fill at the location - time, distance, fuel, all add up) or is unable to “wheel” into Scottsdale?

The WTF is not going to force anyone to join whatever entity or contract is decided upon, nor are we looking to change your mind. We are focused on the 400 to 500 homes that rely on hauled water, the homes that have shallow wells, the people who want extra security in case something happens (their well runs dry, those concerned about property values, etc.) This also does not require a solution for all of RVF because some areas within the Foothills have no concerns, while others do. This also should not be inferred that we will exclude those who want to be a part. All are welcome to participate, or not.

As with any important topic affecting our rural lifestyle, there has been a lot of emotion and strong feelings expressed. We welcome constructive discussion. But, we can't unite and discover solutions without professional, level discussions absent false innuendo, slander, and outright mean behavior. Good discussions lead to effective analysis, effective analysis leads to an appropriate conclusion.

For those who have heard me speak, I always say this is a process. The WTF is providing the information and moving forward by providing information. If you are legitimately looking to help because you recognize that water security is not a handshake and is not goodwill without legal obligation, and are willing to work within this course of action, and understand that something must be done to secure long term water, we welcome your participation. There may be information we are not aware of. Great! Let us know. There may be things we are missing. Great! Get involved and bring verifiable information to the discussion. We may interpret things differently. Great! Bring research and documents for all to read so we can all learn. Nothing is set in stone except that we are all on the same page in wanting a secure long-term water source for our community.

For what it is worth, I recommend everyone does the following: develop a comparison list that examines each of the four “entities” with what you believe are important issues. Each type has pluses and minuses. Sources of water may change whether something is a plus or minus. As more analysis of source options are developed, those checklists will help develop questions and clarity for you. I will say this, I started liking one entity, switched to another, then switched again because as we examine all the information, those checks switch, other higher concerns are added, or other information is learned that changes my thinking. We know two big impacts coming in Fall time frame, the Drought Plan and GW response. We are striving to provide you with more information from meetings with experts and sources once Fall rolls around and everyone is back in town. The WTF believes there is not enough information yet to make an informed decision but we are working to get to that point so you have the information needed.

Conclusion: Guess what, there is no conclusion written by me or the Water Task Force. That will be up to you and your neighbors. Once you decide, we will take the steps to implement if needed.

## MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE NEWS!

by Jenny Powers

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy officially branded its research facility, The Parsons Field Institute, in honor of a \$600,000 grant from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation. The Conservancy partners with scientists and volunteers to conduct research that builds best practices for long-term resource management, contributes to the broader scientific knowledge of natural areas and creates educational opportunities.

The Preserve encompasses more than 30,000 acres of land with nearly 170 miles of trails. In addition to its work to understand and preserve this territory, the field institute is helping spearhead a regional, open space conservation strategy. The grant from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation will support the field office for three years, allowing the Conservancy to further its scientific efforts to:

- Assess the impact of urban stressors and climate change on the Preserve, and
- Improve best management practices in ecological restoration and control of invasive non-native plant species for the Sonoran Desert and other arid lands

### The Pima-Dynamite Trailhead

The trailhead will provide parking and support amenities for public recreational access to the extensive network of trails in the northern region of Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Between 2010 and 2015, the City acquired roughly 15,000 acres of land in this area from the Arizona State Land Department. This land will be permanently protected as part of the Preserve. In 2016, the Scottsdale purchased 400 additional acres of State Land on the northeast corner of Pima Road and Dynamite Boulevard for the location of the trailhead.

Following several open houses and opportunities for public input in late 2017, the design of the new trailhead is complete. Construction will begin this summer with completion planned for the fall of 2019. Some trails have been developed or refined and others will be under construction as the project moves forward. Eventually there will be access from both Pima Road and Dynamite Boulevard. The addition of more horse trailer parking spaces is under consideration.

### The first phase of the trailhead will include:

- Parking for 200 or more passenger vehicles
- Parking for at least 12 horse trailers
- Restrooms
- Hitching rails and water trough
- Covered ramada and small educational amphitheater
- Interpretive, directional, and regulatory signage
- Limited site lighting
- Small office/storage space with storage yard
- Drinking fountains for hikers and dogs
- Entry roads with automatic access control gates

## You Can Make a Difference

Through the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Steward Program, we preserve and protect the environment and resources of the preserve for future generations. To join our steward team, sign up for one of our monthly New Steward Orientation sessions. <https://www.mcdowell-sonoran.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/>

The September New Steward Orientation will be held on the third Saturday. The remaining New Steward Orientations will be held the second Saturday of each month from October 2018 to March 2019. There is a \$60 charge for this orientation. The minimum age for MSC (Conservancy) volunteers is 18 years old.

This intensive workshop provides important information about the history and background of the Preserve, the relationship between the Conservancy and City of Scottsdale, and the important mission of the Conservancy. Participants are introduced to the trails, trailheads and other features of the Preserve; safety issues, communicating with the public, patrol strategies, how to report trail conditions, contact information and the wide range of stewardship opportunities.

Participants who complete the class portion of the orientation are assigned a mentor. The mentor helps guide a participant with field orientation sessions and introduction to the variety of stewardship opportunities. If you are an equestrian, Jenny or Terry will be happy to be your mentors. There are several community members who are mountain bike or foot patrollers who can be assigned to you if you prefer to enjoy the Preserve through these activities. If interested in the steward program, please email [info@rvha.us](mailto:info@rvha.us) and your inquiry will be directed to Jenny or Terry for response.

### Upcoming Orientation Dates:

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Saturday, October 13, 2018

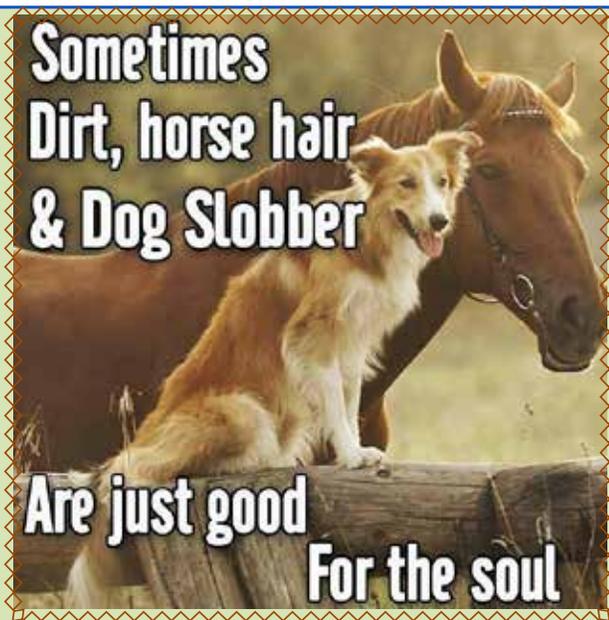
Saturday, November 10, 2018

Saturday, December 8, 2018

Saturday, January 12, 2019

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Saturday, March 9, 2019



## CHOOSING A PET FOOD

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by Carol Samson, VMD  
Animal Care Hospital

People have strong opinions about what they want to feed their pets, and even stronger opinions about what they don't want to feed them. Fortunately, there are good, balanced healthy foods that are gluten-free or grain-free.

There is currently no evidence that dogs have any problems with gluten, except for a very few individuals in a couple of breeds who have specific genes. In the wild, canids eat a lot of plant material, such as the inside of the GI tracts of their prey. In the summer, when rabbits and other prey are scarce, mesquite beans are a significant part of a coyote's diet.

Recently, to better advise my clients, I read through the current recommendations of some of the country's leading veterinary nutritionists about how to choose a pet food. A board-certified veterinary nutritionist is a veterinarian who has had an additional three-year formal training program in nutrition, and who has passed a very difficult exam.

The big pet food companies can afford to hire full-time veterinary nutritionists to formulate their diets and to test batches of ingredients for quality. They do feeding trials, feeding a newly created diet to a group of animals for an extended period and monitoring their health. If there is a problem with a food or an ingredient, they are likely to find out about it sooner because their popular foods are being consumed by many pets.



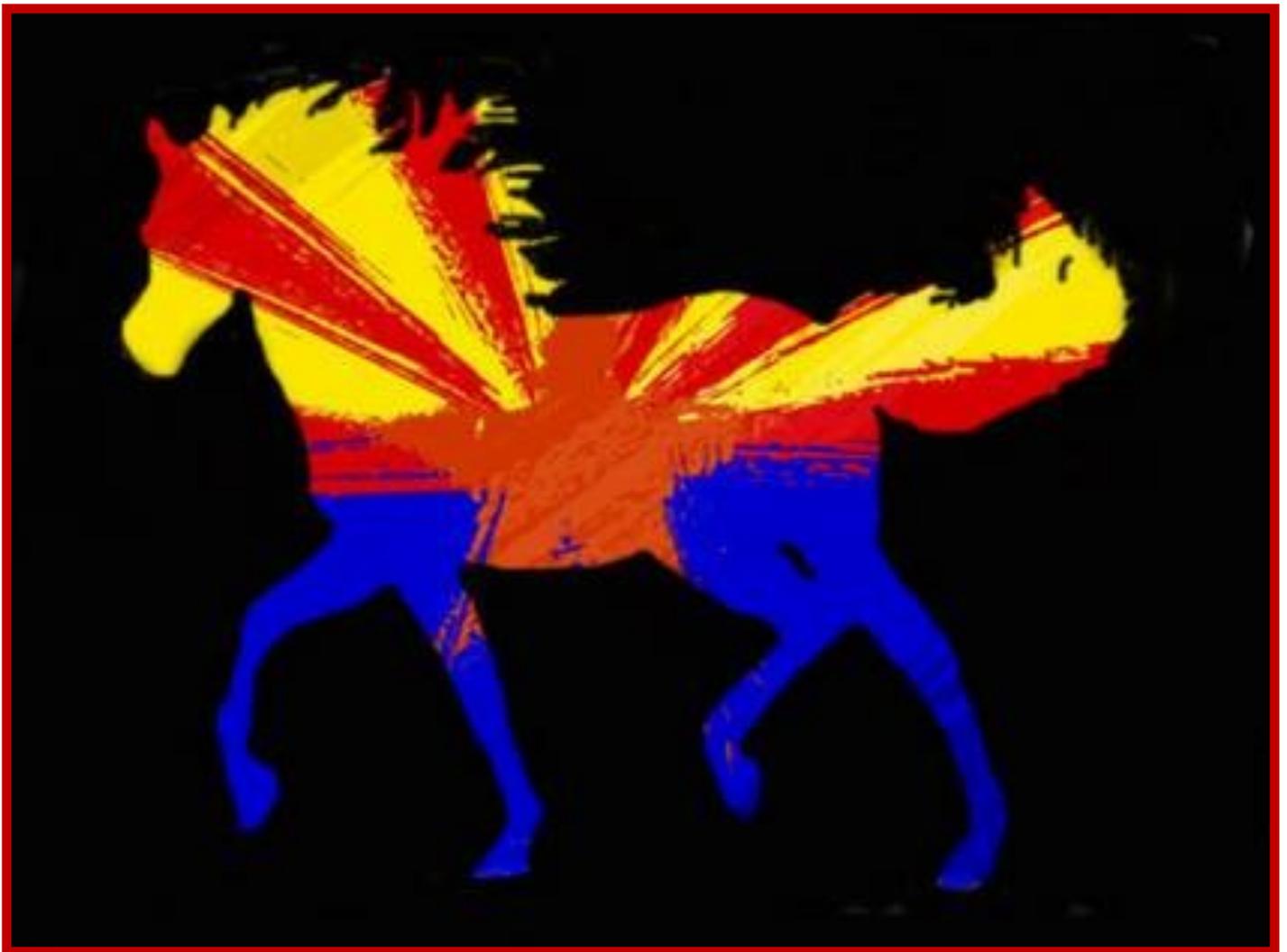
Because individual pets may do much better or worse on certain foods, the nutritionists prefer choosing a food made by one of the large companies in accordance with the consumer's personal beliefs about gluten, grain, organic, additives, etc.

If a more specialized brand appeals to the consumer, there are things to check out, many of these being newer brands manufactured by one of the large companies with the same quality controls. If not, they can be contacted to find out who formulates their diets and what their qualifications are. Also ask about feeding trials, the source of ingredients and how the quality of the batch is evaluated.

Feeding trials are reassuring to have for adult dog and cat food. They are **ESSENTIAL** for foods for growing puppies and kittens. No matter how good a food looks on paper, the only way to tell if it will allow a healthy growth is a feeding trial.

There are veterinary nutritionists who provide the useful service, for a fee, of formulating a balanced homemade diet, for example, for your elderly cat with hyperthyroidism and one kidney that only wants to eat duck and yams. But these experts will not attempt to formulate a diet for a four-month-old puppy. Only feeding trials ensure that a given food is safe for growth.

Another thing that the nutritionists all said is that if your pet is thriving on a food, even one of those less expensive from a large reputable company, you shouldn't feel you should change it to one that has more "fashionable" ingredients.



## MY RUBY'S GRAND HORSEBACK ADVENTURE

by Terry Holmes-Stecyk

While participating in an equestrian adventure two years ago, I was blessed to meet several fabulous men and women from across the globe. After several days of grueling rides over long distances and rough terrain, many of us bonded over sore knees, bruised behinds and shared ibuprofen. Thanks to social media, for us it was Facebook, we "friended" each other and have stayed in touch sharing stories of travel and family adventures, and as well pictures of



our equine partners and loved dogs. This year, five of us met up again to enjoy Ruby's Grand Horseback Adventure to ride through the nearby canyons and ridges of Bryce Canyon and the Dixie National Forest in Utah.

We flew into Las Vegas from our home state, rented a Suburban, stopped at a grocery store for supplies and started off for the 4-hour drive towards Bryce Canyon. Even at this more seasoned age in life, our girlfriend adventure of the Yee Haw Sisterhood promised a lot of laughter, shenanigans and perhaps even a wee bit of adult beverages.



Upon arrival, we gathered with the operations manager and fourth generation owner of Ruby's Inn, Brady, for our meet and greet. The head wrangler and trail boss, Kevin, came around to each table to discuss horses, and to assess which horse would best suit our needs and riding abilities. I was assigned to a gorgeous palomino named Amigo. We checked into the hotel and readied ourselves for four days of doing what we loved most, riding.

Day 1 Kevin met us the next morning and took us to the horse staging area for day one, a 14-mile ride through Willis Creek



(pronounced crick in Utah). Healthy, good looking horses were saddled and ready to go, each eyeing us and hopefully thinking *WOW*, look at these cowgirls. We meandered for several hours along a shallow creek bed, through narrow rock passages, and oohed and awed around each bend. It was my favorite day!

Day 2 was the amazing Thunder Mountain ride. Orange sandstone formations greeted us along the way, each bend presenting even more spectacular scenery. The spine crossing of this 12-mile trail was narrow and tapered off to a sheer drop. It became very quiet as we gently held the reins and trusted our horses didn't want to fall any more than we wanted to fall off that ledge. As I suspected, these seasoned trail horses carefully walked us across, and we all breathed a sigh of relief once flatter land surrounded us. An extra apple of thanks was given to Amigo once safely back at the trailer. It was my new favorite day!!

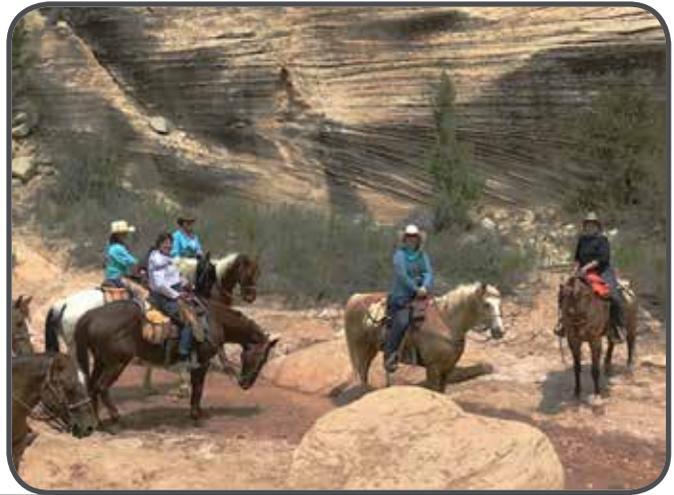
Day 3 I rode a fresh horse, a red roan draft cross named Frosty, along 16 glorious miles through Losee and Castco Canyons where the notorious outlaw Butch Cassidy and his gang rode, and hid from the law. Orange and gold colored canyons surrounded us as we climbed up to rims that provided views that went on for miles. We rode along



trails that meandered through forests of ponderosa and bristle cone pines ,as well as Cedar and Sagebrush as fresh, cool air filled our lungs. It was my newest favorite day!!!

Day 4 The final day was the shorter Henderson Rim ride, an eight-mile ride with a climb to yet another rim with a view no words can truly describe. Our horses again carefully walked the edge of cliffs before coming back down through a pine forest, meadows of grass and even a few wildflowers greeting us as we came back to the horse trailer, and said goodbye to our trusty steeds. It was not my favorite day as the adventure was almost over.

Evening entertainment of cowboy poetry and western music was enjoyed each night with our dinners. On our last night, a covered wagon pulled by 2 gorgeous Belgian geldings brought us to our dinner tent. I called shotgun and was graced with the driver handing me the reins. As those huge hooves beating clip, clop, clip clop along the road, I donned a wide grin that never left my face. More new friendships were forged within our group of guests, as well as with a few riders joining us who had brought their own horses for the tour. Email and phone numbers were shared, and offers to



please come visit were extended around the room.

Each of us are now safely back home and dreaming of the next time the YeeHaw Sisterhood will ride again. Perhaps we'll meet in Monument Valley, or a Reno cattle drive, even an Icelandic equestrian trip was suggested. Whichever tour we finally choose, I know it will be another grand adventure!

For more information on this tour please visit: <https://www.horserides.net/bryce-canyon-horse-rides/> I highly recommend the company. They truly have one of the best kept string of rental horses I have ever seen.



## REHABILITATION, EDUCATION, MEDICINE, SANCTUARY

**WILDLIFE EDUCATION: 480-471-3621**, [www.southwestwildlife.org](http://www.southwestwildlife.org)

### SUMMER 2018 AT SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER EVENTS

#### Bat Netting At Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center (SWCC)

Saturday, June 16, 2018, 7:00 PM or Saturday, September 15, 2018, 7:00 PM.

As if Southwest could get any wilder! Arizona is home to 28 species of bats, many that live and forage right in our own backyards. Here's your chance to see these fascinating creatures up close. Arizona Game and Fish biologist Randy Babb will be at SWCC for an unforgettable evening of capturing and identifying local bat species. Registration fee includes a guided tour of SWCC's sanctuary, presentation by Randy, and a real bat netting experience. If that isn't enough, a few lucky people will get to experience handling and releasing a bat, gloves provided of course. Light refreshments will be provided. Events take place at SWCC, 27026 N. 156<sup>th</sup> Street, Scottsdale, 85262. \$50/guest. Registration is required, to register go to: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/visit-us/>

#### Bug Out at SWCC on Saturday, August 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Want to know about the little things that go bump in the night? Join us for an evening of finding and identifying some of the wild varieties of insects and other invertebrates that inhabit the Sonoran Desert with bug expert Mark Finke. The evening includes a tour of the sanctuary and then bug attracting, collecting, and close up investigation--if you dare! Light refreshments will be served. Event take place at SWCC, 27026 N. 156th Street, Scottsdale, 85262. \$30/adult, \$20 child (ages 3-12). Registration is required, to register go to: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/visit-us/>

Sunrise Tours at SWCC, Saturday mornings on June 9th, July 14th, and August 18th at 7 AM.

Beat the summer heat by waking up early to join us for a sunrise tour! Guests will enjoy a guided walk through the SWCC wildlife sanctuary while experiencing the beauty of a desert morning. Hear the stories of our sanctuary residents and see how they also enjoy the cooler hours of the day. Enjoy a cup of coffee and a breakfast treat with us while touring our wildlife sanctuary. What better way to start your morning. Events take place at SWCC, 27026 N. 156th Street, Scottsdale, 85262. \$30/adult, \$20 child (ages 3-12). Registration is required, to register go to: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/visit-us/>

#### Summer Full Moon Tours at Southwest Wildlife, June 27, July 27, August 25th at 7 PM

Join us at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center (SWCC) for a unique guided tour of our conservation center by the light of the full moon. The blissfully bright full moon brings out the wild in

wildlife. Full Moon Tours offers guests the chance to see what our native wildlife is up to in the mysterious hours of night. If you're lucky, you might even hear a serenade from the Mexican gray wolves or the tiny howl of the grasshopper mouse! You may see the courting dance of a tarantula or the climbing acrobatics of coati. Light refreshments will be served.

Events take place at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, 27026 N. 156th St., Scottsdale, 85262. \$30/adult, \$20 child (ages 3-12). Registration is required, to register go to: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/visit-us/>

### Walk with Wildlife Tours at Southwest Wildlife, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 9 AM.

Whether you're an Arizona resident or visiting from out of town, our Walk with Wildlife tour of our nature center is a unique opportunity to learn about our magnificent native wildlife. Guided tours allow you to get an up-close view of some of our permanent sanctuary animals as we share their compelling stories.

Tours and events take place at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, 27026 N. 156th Street, Scottsdale, 85262. \$25/adult, \$15 child (ages 3-12). Registration is required, to register go to: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/visit-us/>

### About SWCC

SWCC has been saving our wildlife, one life at a time since 1994. SWCC rescues and rehabilitates wildlife that has been injured, displaced, and orphaned. Once rehabilitated, they are returned to the wild. Sanctuary is provided to animals that cannot be released back to the wild. Educational and humane scientific research opportunities are offered in the field of conservation medicine. Wildlife education includes advice on living with wildlife and the importance of native wildlife to healthy ecosystems. SWCC receives no state or federal funding. You can help wildlife by coming on a tour or making a donation.

Contact and register info:

To register for a tour or any summer special event, please visit [www.southwestwildlife.org](http://www.southwestwildlife.org) or call 480-471-3621.

## **RVHA ROADSIDE CLEANUP**

Volunteers have made this year's roadside cleanup a success. The more volunteers that we get makes it faster and more fun to accomplish the task. It's also been an opportunity to meet new neighbors. Summer is here so the next cleanup won't be until September. We look forward to volunteers generously giving their time to help keep Rio Verde Drive a pretty site for residents of the Foothills.

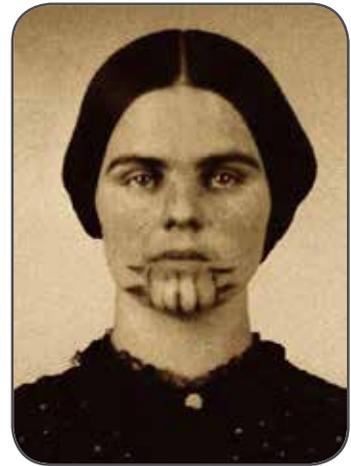
Congratulations to Susan Ricker who won a \$20 gift certificate to Harold's Corral in Cave Creek.

## ARIZONA BURROS

by Wylde Williams  
Arizona Burros (\\_/)

Arizona is unofficially known as the Burro State because we have the most wild burros. They are peaceful and gentle creatures with a history rooted in the taming and settling of the West. They were first introduced by the Spanish missionaries in the 1500s, and were used by humans over the centuries for a variety of work, and were particularly useful to the prospectors and settlers of the 1800s. Many of them escaped or were released, and it wasn't unusual for these desert-adapted creatures, that originated in North Africa, to survive the harsh, dry desert conditions when their owners did not. The wild burros of today are direct descendants of these historic animals and can be re-gentled and domesticated. Protected under federal law, the Bureau of Land Management is tasked with their management and stewardship.

Olive O is one of the Bureau of Land Management donkeys I have to be re-gentled. She is not named after the cartoon character Olive Oil, but arguably a more notable Olive O, and for good reason. Olive Oatman is the stuff of legend. Most of the Oatman family, Mormon settlers, were killed by the Yavapai in 1851. Olive, then 14, was commissioned as a slave for a year and then sold by the Yavapai to the Mohave, with whom she lived as an equal family member. She returned to the Mormon settler society 5 years later, bearing the distinctive blue



Mohave cactus ink chin tattoo. What I love about this story is that most of the rest of her life she longed for her former Mohave family.



Just like her namesake, Olive O (the burro) has striking dark chin markings. It's why I selected her, in fact. Olive O was born in December 2107 at the BLM Florence facility and her lineage ties to the Planet Ranch Conservation Area along the Colorado River, just down the road from Oatman, AZ, a place famous for its local burros and famously named after the one and only, Olive Oatman. I have found Planet Ranch Burros to be smart, quiet, and sweet as everyday sunshine. So far Olive is right on track.

All of the work that I do is at liberty. Even haltered, I allow the burro to say "no," or "I'm not sure." I continue to offer, and then I wait for the burro to say yes. I prefer to work with the burros at liberty for

several reasons:

1. The burro is NEVER forced, which I believe to be counterproductive with these animals.
2. The burro is respected as a self-determined animal as much as possible considering its captivity

and loss of freedom.

3. The burro has the ability to easily communicate when it is unsure, afraid, or has had enough by walking away. Giving the burro the ability to easily communicate has also helped me to discover which approaches are more acceptable to the burro over others.



4. It is safer for both the burro and handler. When we unwittingly put the animal in a situation where she feels trapped or overexposed, the learning stops and a battle of wills begins. A fight with a burro is one the handler is certain to lose.



Burros do better with their acceptance of new situations, given time to think and process. The most important aspect of this work is building trust, and I find that the more respectful, clear, consistent, and persistent I am, without applying too much physical or emotional pressure, the deeper and faster the trust develops, which slowly paves the road to ease the journey for whatever lies ahead. As Tom Dorrance often pointed out, “slow is fast.”

I would like all my adopters to learn and practice these philosophies as they build on the foundation I have provided, and move forward into making their burro part of their family. If nothing else, commit this to your core values: NEVER hit your burro!!

Feel free to ‘like’ Arizona Burros on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/ArizonaBurros/> Please private message Arizona Burros for information about how to adopt a wild burro from BLM, that is gentled and trained under the Mustang Heritage Foundation’s Trainer Incentive Program (TIP), and ready to become your next BBF (best burro friend). Adopters must be approved by BLM (adoption application is at the link listed) and pay their \$125 adoption fee. I can help facilitate the process for you.

[https://www.blm.gov/.../b.../files/wildhorse\\_howtoadopt\\_doc1.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/.../b.../files/wildhorse_howtoadopt_doc1.pdf)

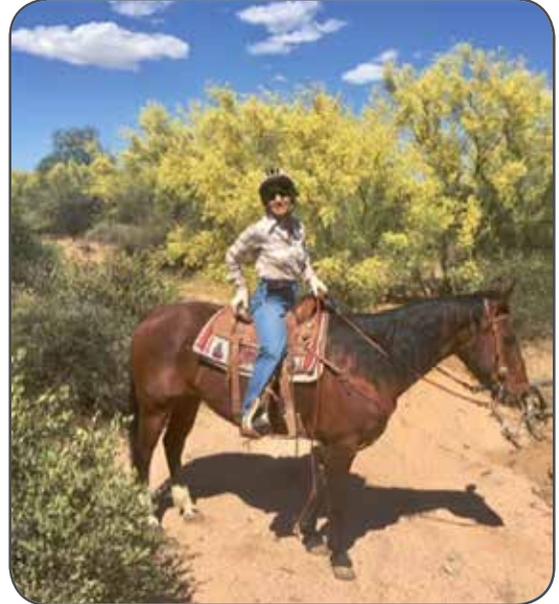


## JULIE LIND PROSSER

**1952 – 2018**

The RVHA lost a friend, fan and long-time member this year when Julie Lind Prosser passed away in May. Julie and Lee Prosser are long time members of the RVHA and served on the original trail ride committee in the early days of the association. We've also enjoyed many of the flagstone signs that they've so generously crafted and donated for our events.

Ten years ago, on a horse camping trip with several RVHA friends, Julie was thrown off her horse, packed in the back of a truck and taken to the Globe emergency room, where she was treated for a broken collarbone. During a subsequent follow-up with a doctor back in Phoenix, a body scan revealed stage 2 lung cancer. The cancer diagnosis was a shock, but Julie faced it head on, with determination and grace. Painful surgeries and chemo followed, with mixed results for 10 years until she finally succumbed to the disease. Even in pain and despair, Julie had a smile and kind word for everyone she met, even in the infusion room at the oncologist's office.



Julie was always the first one out on the dance floor and the last one to leave our events, always staying until the end to help with tear down and clean up. She could light up the dance floor with her outrageous moves, and was partners with the pole on the floor at Greasewood after she wore out Lee and Joe Stock for the night.

The family had requested that donations (in lieu of flowers) be made to the RVHA. The annual "We Survived the Summer" evening event on October 6th at Reigning Grace will be dedicated in her honor, and all monies collected will go towards the band. Any additional funds will be donated to Reigning Grace. We know Julie will be dancing with the heavenly stars beside us that night!



## LOSING HUMMER, MY BELOVED FRIEND, AND THE LESSONS THAT HE TAUGHT ME

by Leslie Nichols

Recently, I lost one of my horses to liver disease. Hummer, my “warrior-horse,” had health issues for years, and together we fought a series of challenges and won. This time, it was not meant to be. Hummer showed me very clearly that he was not coming back from his most recent devastating illness. He spent his last days with Stella, his favorite mare, lying in deep shavings and eating all of his favorite foods. I spent his last day with him, knowing that he would no longer be with us come evening. Even though his body was toxic, heartrate never below 100, he was still eating, drinking, walking around and being somewhat sociable. Talk about surreal, I felt like I was in the *Twilight Zone*. We helped him cross over, surrounded by his herd. They examined the body with varying expressions of shock, fear, curiosity, disinterest, and ultimately, they all processed the event and moved on. Interestingly, Stella (we used to call them the married couple because they were inseparable), showed no interest in examining his body, perhaps she already knew he was very sick? The youngest horse in the herd, who Hummer had taken under his protection, licked and groomed his body for almost an hour. Fascinating.



Hummer had been sick for some time and I thought that I was ready for his passing but I found out that I was wrong. Every detail of his last day, while terribly sad, I took in stoic stride in harmony with my stoic equine partner. But after everyone had left, and before his body was picked up, I fell apart. I laid on his now cooling body, prostrate, and sobbed like a child.

If you have horses long enough, you will go through the experience of losing a beloved friend. In advance of that event, my heart goes out to you.

But this is not a narrative about Hummer’s death, but about his life and the lessons that he taught me. This narrative is a reminder to look for all the ways that your horse or horses are enriching

your life, not just the activities that you enjoy with them, but the life lessons that they have to offer you. Animals are powerful creatures and can affect us deeply, and sometimes surprisingly. Here is a bit of Hummer's story and some of the lessons that he taught me.

### HEALTH CHALLENGES OFFER GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO BOND

As I mentioned, Hummer and I have been through not one, but several health challenges, and we vanquished them. More than once, I had been advised to surrender to the inevitable and to euthanize him. More than once, I brought him back to full health. Interestingly, some of my most profound memories are of sitting with him late at night, and administering shots (penicillin, no less!) while he was lying on the ground with no halter or rope/lead line. He would turn his head and neck and watch me, very stoically, as I gave him painful injections. He trusted me and we bonded very deeply over these experiences. He taught me not to give up, and that while horses are surprisingly susceptible, as most horse owners learn in time, they also have a strong will to live, and they can heal if given the opportunity and support.

Further, horse owners struggle with the responsibility of taking care of their horses when their health is failing, It is time-consuming, can be expensive, and can be emotionally exhausting. Hummer showed me that it also can be a unique way to bond with your horse. He and I became closer with every health challenge we fought together.



### THE LESSON OF PERSUADING A HORSE THAT HAS NO INTEREST IN YOUR IDEAS

Most horses can be coaxed to be near you and enjoy you with social activities, play, kindness and affection. Hummer didn't like to be fussed over and he didn't like to be massaged or groomed. He didn't even like to be touched. Hummer was a very serious, stoic individual. He was a horse's horse, and he was not particularly intrigued by our species. When I first got him, he wouldn't look at me, wouldn't be caught, and he certainly had no interest in "training." I admired his willfulness and his independence. As the saying goes, "he did not suffer fools," and yet at the

same time, he was thoughtful and gentle. He didn't object just to be difficult, he objected because he hadn't been persuaded. It was my job to figure things out. Hummer taught me that with some horses, you can't force, insist, demand or make them do things. You have to negotiate, persuade and even intrigue them towards a partnership. I have long since abandoned the idea of making horses do anything, and I have him, in part, to credit for that important shift in thinking.

### THE LESSON OF RESPECTING YOUR HORSE

I earned Hummer's esteem and eventually his affection over many years through my presence, and my style, but mostly through my deference to him. He was willful, but gloriously so, and I couldn't help but admire him. And the more I admired him and respected him, the more he came around. This is probably one of the most valuable lessons that he taught me. I have since learned that it's a key to mares, admire them, tell them how beautiful they are, and they will give you their heart! It seemed to me that I had to prove to him that I was his equal, that I was worthy of his



esteem. The horse that once would run away from me for over an hour transformed into a horse that would come running to me from a distance, leaping and bucking along the way. When we worked at Liberty, he was positively glued to me. He did not give his connection easily or freely. When I finally earned it, I was humbled.

#### THE LESSON OF ALLOWING YOUR HORSE TO EVOLVE IN HIS OWN TIME, HIS OWN WAY

In recent years, I marveled at this very serious horse warming up to humans. He finally decided, in the end, that our species was interesting and perhaps even enjoyable, after all. I was pleased that he finally felt that he could lower his guard and enjoy being fussed over just a bit. Funny thing, for years Hummer would come over to me, stand next to me, and when I reached out to pet him, he would walk away. I am embarrassed to say that it took me too long to understand that he was trying to communicate his preferences: "I want to be near you, but I don't want to be touched." I finally got it. Even on his last day, he walked away from me a few times when he felt that I was fussing over him a bit too much. His patience with me and my education was endless.

#### THE PATH OF STARTING ALL OVER, TAKING AS LONG AS YOU NEED, AND NEVER COMPROMISING ON YOUR VISION

When I first started riding Hummer many years ago, he let me know that he had more strength in his nostril than I had in my entire body. He had no stop, no steering, and no interest in learning my ideas. I was not on any schedule with him, and so after a few years of messing around on him, I decided that I would start all over again with our riding experience, and appeal to him in ways that he appreciated.

Hummer showed me that it really is true that there are no short cuts to resolving your communication, relationship or riding challenges with your horse. Most folks do not take the long and deep route. As a result, they will usually have to settle for less than what they dreamed possible, always wondering what would have happened if they had just started all over again. He showed me that I was right on this.

I spent a few years helping him get used to the feel of me as I rode, using my breathing and energy in my body. I spent a long time at the walk, learning to play it like a violin, lengthening it and shortening it, big walk, easy walk. We continued on to the trot, doing the same. When we finally cantered, he exploded into this big, long glorious stride, Gosh how he loved to canter! I have fantastic memories of hand-galloping him, his favorite gait, and simply breathing him to a stop. Hummer showed me how to communicate with him in a much more respectful way than pulling on his head and mouth or banging on his sides. He is this horse that showed me, once and for all, that you don't need to ride with a bit, and you certainly don't need spurs either. Most importantly, he showed me that you can start all over again, and rebuild into something new and much more aligned with your vision. I am forever grateful to him for these lessons.

## A LESSON IN FOSTERING MASTERY

A highlight of our riding was his mastery of the side pass, backing up, turn on the haunches and turn on the fore, strung together in any way I asked for it. Hummer was really, really pleased with these moves. He was so enthusiastic about them, he would start “freestyling” with these moves, totally forgetting that I was still up there! It was one of those quirky things that he knew he had mastered. He taught me that fostering a sense of mastery and confidence is essential in our work and play with horses.

## GENTLE, INTELLIGENT TEACHER

Hummer was also a very kind and intelligent riding lesson horse in years past. He would lower his energy to the level of the rider, but always complied with their ideas. Sometimes a student would remark that he was a lazy horse. I would simply get on his back, he would brighten up and strike off with vigor. Hummer, I would explain, was simply mirroring back to them their energy level and experience. He was a gentleman.

## THE ROLE OF A LIFETIME

Mostly I will miss the “herd protector” side of Hummer’s personality. He took on that role many years ago and it was impressive to see it in action. Any time an “interloper” horse would venture near the herd, he would go on high alert with stallion-like posturing, ground stomping and creating a “wall” between the herd and the strange horse. He would endeavor to keep the herd safe, running interference between his herd mates and new horses over the fence, continuing his patrol until he had determined that all was safe again. I marveled at his dedication to protecting the herd. In this respect and in countless other ways, Hummer took my breath away. He was an exceptional horse, a fine, fine specimen of the equine species.

## ...AND THE LESSONS CONTINUE

My least favorite part of the whole helping-your-horse-to-die ordeal is when they hook a chain to your horse’s body and drag the corpse into the cart. Yuck. In the past, I’ve always walked away so I didn’t have to see that. Hummer was such a strong individual that I decided that I would confront my aversion and watch this procedure in his honor. And of course, I learned that it wasn’t really that bad and that I could handle it after all. Thank you, Hummer for another lesson, even after you had passed.

## THE HEART GOES ON

Every one of my horses has an “energy signature” that I can feel when I am near them. Together, this collection of energy creates a herd energy. Hummer’s energy left the area almost immediately when he passed. The herd energy changed instantly and it is different now. The next day I began to feel the “energy signature” of Hummer, here and there, especially late at night because he and I spent so much time together under the stars in recent months. Every night before I leave, I call him in from the herd to go to his private pen, saying his name out loud much to the curiosity of the other horses, and every night I can feel him lumbering over to me. He is gone, but only in body. His spirit is still with us.

I will miss Hummer every day, but I also know that if I soften my eyes and open my heart, especially late at night, I can still feel his presence. As long as I keep his memory alive, I know that he will live on in spirit. Rest in my peace, my friend, you are loved.

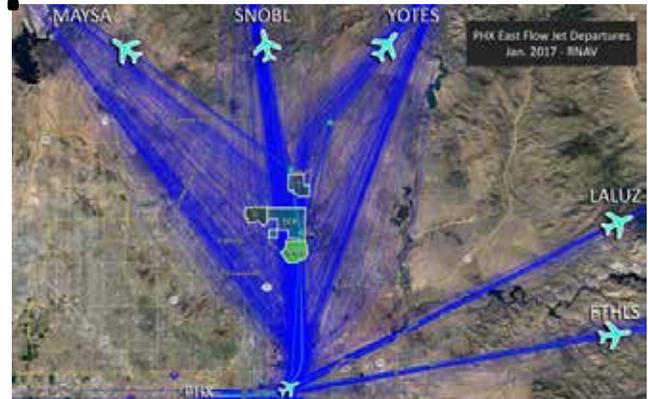
# Restore Quiet To Our Skies

## What is the Problem?

PHX North East Departures pre-2014



PHX North East Departures AFTER 2014



Illustrated is a sample of large HOAs impacted by FAA change: Grayhawk, DC Ranch, Troon, McDowell Mountain Ranch

In Sept 2014, the NE Valley woke up to the unexpected roar of air traffic overhead.

FAA launched NextGen that changed flight paths without public input or notice.

Scottsdale Airport (SDL) flight paths also changed due to NextGen, and special-events flight paths became permanent for regular use.

Scottsdale residents' complaints to Phoenix Sky Harbor airport (PHX) skyrocketed from 7 in 2013 to almost 17,000 in 2016.

City of Phoenix responded to complaints and sued the FAA to fix westerly departures. They won!

For NE Valley residents, the noise *continues* from easterly departures, arrivals, and Scottsdale & Deer Valley airport changes.

## Let's Take Action!



Scottsdale Coalition for Airplane Noise Abatement (SCANA) is a grassroots organization of concerned citizens working to ensure residents have a say on airplane noise, air pollution & flight safety over our neighborhoods.

We are striving to restore and maintain community-wide quiet skies. While airports are important to our economy, the airports and the FAA need to return to the pre-NextGen flight paths.

### What can YOU do?

**Visit & Vote:** [www.airplanenoise.org](http://www.airplanenoise.org)

**Follow us on Facebook** @airplanenoise

**Voice your complaints with airports**  
See how on our web site.

**Share SCANA's efforts with your friends & neighbors.**

Contact Us: SCANA, 10115 E. Bell Road, Suite 107, #132 Scottsdale, AZ 85260 Email: [scanaPHX@gmail.com](mailto:scanaPHX@gmail.com)



## **We Survived The Summer!**

Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Time: 6 – 10 pm



This event will be held at

**Reigning Grace Ranch.**

28614 N 172<sup>nd</sup> Street

We'll enjoy a catered buffet meal and entertainment by American Traditions.

This event is FREE for members, your guests will be \$10.00.

## **Back by popular demand! Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Light Bus Tour Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

This year we have secured a double decker bus from the Real London Bus Company for the evening. The bus will be decorated in typical Christmas merriment. Light snacks and beverages provided.

Just \$12.00 for members,  
\$15.00 for your guests.



**Signup and details coming soon.**